

Message Text

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ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 EUR-12 /018 W

----- 129490

R 200958Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 445

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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DEPT FOR OC/P; FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO; BANGKOK FOR
BRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM

SUBJECT:

STATUS OF APO MAIL SERVICES

REF: A) ANKARA 6019 AND B) ANKARA 5983

THERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF THE APO MAIL FACILITIES
IN ANKARA:

1. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. 3792 DATED
AUGUST 8, 1975, TRANSMITTED A "CUSTOMS CIRCULAR" WHICH SET
FORTH A NUMBER OF NEW REGULATIONS AFFECTING U.S. MILITARY
OPERATIONS IN TURKEY. PARAGRAPH 5 C) OF THE "CIRCULAR", WHICH
CONCERNS THE SUSPENSION OF APO PARCEL SERVICES, IS QUOTED HERE-
WITH: QUOTE PARCEL SHIPMENTS TO/FROM TURKEY THROUGH APO
SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED AS SEPTEMBER 15, 1975. UNQUOTE
THE APO REPS AT INCIRLIK AIR BASE (ADANA) HAVE ISSUED A
NOTICE THAT NO PACKAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE ANKARA APO
AFTER SEPTEMBER 10 SO THAT THE APO POSTAL CHANNELS IN TURKEY
WILL BE CLEARED BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 15TH DEADLINE.

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2. FOLLOWING THE IMPOUNDING OF 24 SACKS OF APO PACKAGES AT THE ANKARA AIRPORT ON JULY 26 THAT WERE FINALLY RELEASED ON AUGUST 15TH AFTER SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS TO TURKISH OFFICIALS, INBOUND AND OUTBOUND APO POUCHES CONTAINING PERSONAL PACKAGES AND 2ND AND 3RD CLASS MAIL (INBOUND) HAVE BEEN TRUCKED BETWEEN INCIRLIK AIR BASE AND ANKARA. THIS ARRANGEMENT AVOIDS PAY-

MENT OF LANDING CHARGES BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED BY THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES AS PART OF THE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES. AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES REGARDING 2ND AND 3RD CLASS MAIL, IT IS ASSUMED BY APO REPS HERE THAT THIS CATEGORY OF MAIL WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED AS IN THE PAST, E.G., AIRLIFTED TO INCIRLIK AND TRUCKED TO ANKARA.

3. FIRST CLASS LETTER MAIL AND DIPLOMATIC POUCHES ARE PROCESSED BY THE APO CENTER AT JFK AIRPORT AND DISPATCHED IN APO BAGS VIA AMERICAN FLAG CARRIER, PAA 001 TO ISTANBUL. APO ISTANBUL RECEIVES THE INCOMING APO POUCHES AND RE-SACKS FOR DELIVERY TO APO ADDRESSEES IN COUNTRY BY TURKISH AIRLINES. APO ANKARA PICKS UP ITS POUCHES AT ESENBOGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHICH ARE THEN TAKEN TO TUSLOG HQR (ANKARA AIR STATION) FOR SORTING AND DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ADDRESSEES. THE REVERSE PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED TO DISPATCH FIRST CLASS LETTER MAIL AND DIPLOMATIC POUCHES DISPATCHED FROM ESENBOGA ON PAA 111 TO JFK AND VIA APO ISTANBUL TO FRANKFURT ON PAA 002 FOR APO ADDRESSEES OUTSIDE THE USA. FOR THE PRESENT TIME, THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES ARE PERMITTING THE APO TO CONTINUE HANDLING THE FIRST CLASS MAIL AND DIPLOMATIC POUCHES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OR DELAYS. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPT CONTINUE TO USE APO SERVICES FOR DIPLOMATIC POUCHES INSTEAD OF COMMERCIAL CARGO FLIGHTS.

4. AT SOME POINT WE MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER REINSTATEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC SURFACE POUCH FACILITIES SO THAT FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL AT ANKARA, ISTANBUL, IZMIR AND ADANA MAY HAVE PERSONAL SHIPMENTS FORWARDED TO THEM VIA DIPLOMATIC MAIL CHANNELS. I AM LOATH TO RECOMMEND THIS PREMATURELY BECAUSE, IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD DIVIDE THE U.S. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY STATIONED IN TURKEY INTO TWO CLASSES OF CITIZENS: A RELATIVELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEW FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL WITH FREE ENTRY PARCEL POST PRIVILEGES AND A LARGE MAJORITY OF OTHER PERSONNEL WITHOUT THEM. I BELIEVE IT WILL BE BETTER FOR MORALE DURING THE PRESENT TRYING DAYS IF WE STAND TOGETHER AND THAT ALL OF US SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FOREGO PARCEL POST FOR A PERIOD WHILE WE SEEK A MORE EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

5. IN THE MEANTIME THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES WE WILL BE

STUDYING, E.G., QUIETLY MAKING AVAILABLE DIPLOMATIC POUCH FACILITIES TO APY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL BUT ON A HIGHLY RESTRICTED BASIS SO THAT TURKISH RESENTMENTS WOULD NOT BE AROUSED BY HEAVY VOLUME. A VARIANT OF THIS WOULD BE PERMITTING A HIGHLY LIMITED FLOW OF PACKAGES THROUGH APO CHANNELS VIA MILITARY AIR TO A POINT SUCH AS TORREJON WHERE THEY WOULD BE RESACKED IN DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND DELIVERED TO INCIRLIK. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS RAISE PROBLEMS AND NEED FURTHER REFINEMENT, WHICH WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO DO. ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS BY DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WELCOME.

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